

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01608 060807Z
ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /047 W
-----081975 060815Z /21

O 060710Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7946
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

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FOR FAA

FOR NTSB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FAA ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

REF: ABU DHABI 1559

1. UAE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY
FOR
CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS AT NATIONAL LEVEL HAS INQUIRED AT EMBASSY ABOUT
T
POSSIBILITY OF FAA ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION
ON
INTO CAUSES OF FATAL CRASH OF US MANUFACTURED HELICOPTER ON 3 JUNE IN

WHICH 15 RPT 15 PERSONS KILLED (REFTEL). ON 6 JUNE UAEG RECEIVED TELE
GRAM
FROM NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) OFFERING ANY
ASSISTANCE DESIRED. UAEG PLANS ACCEPT THIS OFFER AND TO REQUEST
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INVESTIGATING TEAM COME TO ABU DHABI IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, UAEG
AUTHORITIES, AND EMBASSY AS WELL, UNCLEAR ON ROLE OF NTSB VIS-A-VIS
FAA IN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS AND HAS REQUESTED CLARIFICATION AS TO
WHETHER NTSB OR FAA IS PROPER AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT DEFINITIVE INVESTIGATION.

WHOEVER HAS THIS RESPONSIBILITY, UAEG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW
IF TEAM CAN BE SENT OUT IMMEDIATELY AND WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR

COSTS ENTAILED IN FIELDING TEAM AND CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION.

2. HELICOPTER WAS BELL 212, SERIAL NUMBER 30800, REGISTERED IN ABU DHABI ON 17 NOVEMBER 1976. IT WAS BROUGHT FROM FACTORY ONLY 18 MONTHS AGO, BUT WAS DUE FOR 500 HR MAINTENANCE UPON COMPLETION OF FATAL FLIGHT. CRASH OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF FROM OIL RIG APPROXIMATELY 60 MILES OFF-SHORE ABU DHABI. BRITISH PILOT ABLE SEND MAYDAY MESSAGES AND TOWER RECORDED ALL TRANSMISSIONS AS CHOPPER WENT INTO SEA.

ALL WRECKAGE RECOVERED AND MOST BODIES WITHIN 24 HOURS. COPTER BELONGED

TO ABU DHABI HELICOPTER CO. WHICH IS OWNED 20 PERCENT BY WORLD-WIDE HELICOPTERS, A U.S.-BASED FIRM. REMAINDER IS OWNED BY ALI KHALFAN, CHAIRMAN OF ABU DHABI CIVIL AVIATION DEPT. AND BY ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT.

ALTHOUGH AIRCRAFT WAS UAE-REGISTERED, EMBASSY BELIEVES FACT THAT COMPANY PARTLY U.S. OWNED, THAT NEARLY ALL ITS HELICOPTERS (WHICH SERVICE OFF-SHORE RIGS, SEVERAL OF WHICH ARE U.S. OWNED AND MANNED) ARE AMERICAN MANUFACTURED, AND THAT SEVERAL OF ITS PILOTS ARE FAA LICENSED, TOGETHER CONSTITUTE SUFFICIENT REASON FOR ACTIVE FAA INVOLVE

MENT. FURTHERMORE, UAEG TECHNICAL EXPERTISE INADEQUATE TO CONDUCT THOROUGH

INVESTIGATION THIS ACCIDENT.

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3. PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATE IF FAA INVESTIGATING TEAM IS ALSO REQUIRED IN LIGHT ACCEPTANCE BY UAEG OF NTSB OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. ALSO PLEASE INDICATE WHAT COSTS WOULD BE BORNE BY WHICH PARTY IF TEAM FIELDDED. DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Litigation Codes:
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